

S-E-C-R-E-T
NO FOREIGN DISSEM

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EXPLANATORY NOTES

In order that they may make maximum use of this dossier, users are urged to become familiar with the following information.

Military Ranks in Cuba

As reported 27 September 1963, ranks of the Cuban Revolutionary Armed Forces are as follows:

Major in Chief (Comandante en Jefe)

Army Major (Comandante de Ejército)

Corps Major (Comandante de Cuerpo)

Major (Comandante)

First Captain (Primer Capitán)

Captain (Capitán)

First Lieutenant (Primer Teniente)

Lieutenant (Teniente)

Sub-lieutenant (Sub Teniente)

Sergeant First Class (Sargento de Primera)

Sergeant Second Class (Sargento de Segunda)

Sergeant Third Class (Sargento de Tercera)

Corporal (Cabo)

Private (Soldado)

Spanish Names

Much of the confusion concerning Spanish names can be eliminated if one basic fact is clearly understood: Spanish speaking people use their mother's maiden name (matronymic) after their last name (patronymic). For example, Fidel Castro's full name is Fidel Castro Ruz--Ruz being the matronymic (and in this case seldom used). In this dossier the last name is the one capitalized and will appear as

Juan GOMEZ Díaz, or

GOMEZ Díaz, Juan

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(continued)

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CUBA

(Lazaro) Rolando CURELA Secades

NICKNAME:

RANK: Comandante ~~(possibly promoted to Captain)~~ as
of October 1963.

POSITION: Most recently a student at Alliance
Francaise in Paris, France.



(1961)

DPOB: 19 January 1933, Cienfuegos, Las Villas
Province.

RELIGION:

LANGUAGES: Spanish (native); English (fair to good); French (probably
good).

HEIGHT: 5' 11"

WEIGHT: 175 pounds

RACE: Caucasian

COLOR HAIR: Dark, wavy, thinning noticeably on top.

COLOR EYES: Brown

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS: Eyes rather small for his face, small
nose, almost petulant mouth, fair complexion, hair usually needs
combing. Expression is tense unless he is bored or fatigued at which
time his left eyelid droops. Dresses informally by preference, and is
prone to wearing a jacket without a tie. When properly dressed,
presents a good appearance in a masculine way.

LAST KNOWN ADDRESS: Casa Cubana, Paris, France.

November 1963

Unit 1

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CURRENT POLITICAL RELIEFS:

Until 1961-62 Subject showed a pronounced anti-US and pro-Communist; pro-Castro bias. More recently, however, there has been information indicating that he does not hold to his former views and is thinking of leaving Cuba. The progression of his political thinking is visible in the following extracts. -

1959: A US resident of Cuba whose source was a Cuban youth leader reported that the swing to the left of the University Students Federation (Federación Estudiantil Universitaria - FEU) was confirmed by the decision made at the end of November 1959 to become a full member of the Communist-run International Union of Students (IUS). (However, the FEU also retained its association with the Coordinating Secretariat of the National Union of Students - COSEC.)

Editorial Note: Since this swing to the left of the FEU happened only a month or so after Subject became president of that organization it does not seem likely that he could have so quickly influenced the predominantly Catholic university. On the other hand, one of the FEU vice presidents, José VENEGAS Valdespino, was by November heading the Latin American Department of the FEU, an indication that the FEU was organizing its area departments along the exact lines of the area departments in the Cuban Ministry of State (Foreign Ministry?).

1959-60: Subject and other FEU leaders entertained a group of Red Chinese students in Havana.

March 1960: An anti-Communist student leader said that Subject was neither pro- nor anti-Communist. The source felt that Subject's only desire was to prevent discord during his term of office as FEU president.

March 1960: In late March a Mixed Commission at the University of Havana met to discuss the establishment of Disciplinary Tribunals. The president of the commission, Rafael SANTOS Jimenez, and others objected, saying the old disciplinary councils had been suspended because more modern and efficient legislation was being studied by the commission and it was only logical to wait until this legislation was promulgated before establishing new tribunals. All the arguments had no effect on Subject and Angel QUEVEDO Valdivia. Subject said he had never seen so many Catholics and anti-Communists present on campus "attempting to deny the existence of freedom of speech and written expression." He added that, "everyone knows that no one is more opposed

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CUBELA Secades,
(Lázaro) Rolando

Unit 2

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CURRENT POLITICAL BELIEFS: (Cont'd)

than we are to coercion and violence." Subject and Quevedo won when Santos changed his vote, and the tribunals were immediately established.

May 1960: Subject told a general assembly of university students that Communist Professor Carlos Rafael RODRIGUEZ Rodríguez was doing his duty and must be given the same respect as other professors. He closed the meeting by scoring the counterrevolutionary attitude of some students and said that the university could not be for "those traitors who prefer foreign intervention in Cuba."

May 1960: Subject and his followers in the FEU leadership held the floor at the macabre "burial" of the newspaper Diario de la Marina and not only turned it into a vicious anti-American display but also condemned the anti-Communist students at the university as enemies of the revolution.

May 1960: The paper Información published a letter from Joaquín PEREZ Rodríguez, vice secretary of the School of Agronomy at the University of Havana, in which he stated that so-called "terroristic activities" of anti-Communist students were nothing more than a pre-fabricated pretext on the part of Subject's clique to justify or rationalize strong-arm methods against all who opposed the Communist minority. He asked how, if Subject's leadership deplored violence, it could remain impassive when the Communist youth from the Instituto de la Habana entered the university grounds fully armed and perpetrated acts of violence against him (Pérez). He also asked what moral authority Subject and Quevedo might hope to invoke when they went across campus carrying arms in direct violation of university regulations.

June 1960: Subject was in Uruguay as a guest of the pro-Communist Federation of Uruguayan Students. He held talks with Communists and gave press conference statements which included such Communist-line items as "Fatherland or Death," "Death to Traitors," "Anti-Castro students serve bastard interests," "War criminals are being trained at the Yankee base of Guantanamo," etc.

October 1960: After a short trip to New York City with the Cuban delegation to the United States a responsible US consular official said that his presence in the United States was prejudicial to the national interest and recommended that his valid visa be revoked.

October 1960: A State Department despatch noted that Subject's action regarding the Embassy evacuation notice, his violent denunciation of that notice, and his denunciation of the Embassy itself in the local press clearly pointed out his anti-US bias.

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CUBELA Secades,
(Lazar) Rolando

Unit 2

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CURRENT POLITICAL BELIEFS: (Cont'd)

December 1960: It was stated that Subject had gained prominence in the FEU through Raúl CASTRO. It was allegedly common knowledge that Subject had sold out morally and politically to Castro who had forced him on the FEU as president after his lack of character and political force became known. Between January 1959 and the time he became president of the FEU (October 1959) he served as a sort of mediator between Communist and non-Communist groups in the University of Havana.

January 1961: Subject was reportedly to go to Spain in the near future under a fictitious name and without his beard. He was allegedly going to be chief of an action group penetrating Spain from Cuba.

March 1961: Subject was reportedly arrested attempting to flee Cuba but this was alleged to be a trap for anti-Castroites, with Subject's participation.

May 1961: Subject was a delegate to the Latin American Conference on National Sovereignty, Economic Independence, and Peace, in Mexico City. This conference was sponsored by Mexican Communist Lázaro CARDENAS del Río. Subject subscribed to the Charter of México, a document containing anti-US resolutions.

1962: In May a report from Bern, Switzerland said Subject wanted to flee Cuba and would try to get permission to visit some European country and defect. In August his ex-wife was allegedly telling friends that Subject did not intend to return to Cuba from Helsinki, which he was then visiting. Also in August, Subject reportedly said that he was thoroughly disgusted at present with the situation in Cuba and planned to do something about it. He stated that "foreign-controlled Cuban assets" had tried to contact him but "he avoided them." He did, however, plan to contact someone on his next trip out of Cuba.

1962: The US Army reported that Subject controlled the students at the University of Havana. This report said that his loyalty to the Communist Party was uncertain. It has been said at times that he has conspired against Castro. It has also been stated that he speaks against the United States to please Fidel Castro.

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(Lázaro) Rolando

Unit 2

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PRIOR POLITICAL BELIEFS:

At the time of the Batista coup on 10 March 1952 Subject was one of the first to start working against the Batista regime in Havana University together with José Antonio ECHEVERRIA Bianchi (now deceased), Fructuoso RODRIGUEZ (now deceased), Faure CHOMON y Mediavilla, Juan Pedro CARBO Servía (now deceased) and José MACHADO (now deceased).

At the time of the 1955 border incident between Costa Rican and Nicaraguan troops, Subject went to Costa Rica together with other members of the University Students Federation to defend Costa Rica. When he returned to Cuba he rejoined the fight against the Batista regime.

In 1956 Subject participated in the assassination of Lt. Col. Antonio ELANCO Rico of Batista's Military Intelligence (SIM). He defended this in a 1959 press conference, calling Batista a dictator, assassin, despoiler of the riches of Cuba which left the revolutionary government a legacy of a Cuban national debt of one billion dollars.

From January 1958 until Batista's overthrow a year later Subject fought in the Escambray Mountains as one of the leaders of the Revolutionary Directorate (Directorio Revolucionario - DR) which had made a formal pact with forces of the 26th of July Movement and with the Second Front of the Escambray to work together until Batista was overthrown.

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(Lázaro) Rolando

Unit 3

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ATTITUDE TOWARD REGIME:

1959: During the early spring Subject reportedly frankly expressed to Fidel CASTRO his dissatisfaction with the regime.

1959: Prior to September Subject reportedly told intimates that he was so disgusted with Castro that if he, Subject, did not get out of Cuba soon he would kill Castro himself. Early in October his feelings reportedly had not changed.

March 1960: Following a near riot among university students when Communist and Radical elements, despite the efforts of the Catholic groups, prevented by mass force the entry of anti-Communist, well-known commentator Luis CONTE Agüero into television station CMQ over which he was to read an opposition letter to Fidel Castro concerning Communist infiltration. Subject declared that anti-Government political demonstrations would not be permitted within the university and that still less would demonstrations organized by students who aided the counterrevolution be permitted to ascend the university steps. If they did so, he said, they would not be able to return to the university for they would be judged before the Disciplinary Tribunals and condemned as traitors to the fatherland and the revolution.

May 1960: He told a general assembly of university students that Communist Professor Carlos Rafael RODRIGUEZ Rodriguez was doing his duty and must be given the same respect as other professors. He closed the meeting by scoring the counterrevolutionary attitude of some students and said that the university cannot be for those traitors who prefer foreign intervention in Cuba.

May 1960: Subject and his followers in the FEU leadership held the floor at the macabre "burial" of the newspaper Diario de la Marina and not only turned it into a vicious anti-US display but also used it to condemn anti-Communist students at the university as enemies of the revolution.

August 1960: An article in The Reporter stated that Subject had said: "The university cannot stand aside from the nation. The revolution must enter the university. Incompetent, immoral and counterrevolutionary professors must go."

Continued

CUBELA Secades,
(Lázaro) Rolando

Unit 4

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ATTITUDE TOWARD REGIME: (Cont'd)

August 1960: A Cuban businessman reported that a fake anti-government movement headed by Subject had been initiated by followers of the regime for the purpose of infiltrating true anti-government groups. He was reportedly using as agents José ABRAHANTES Fernández of the 26th of July Movement and Yillio Jaime FIGUERES y Amas, liaison officer between G-2 and the Ministry of State and a member of the Communist Popular Socialist Party (PSP).

December 1960: It was said that he had gained prominence in the University Students Federation (Federación Estudiantil Universitaria - FEU) through Raúl Castro, to whom he had sold out morally and politically.

February 1961: A report during this month stated that Subject had made overtures to various Embassies for asylum. This has not been confirmed.

March 1961: Subject was reportedly arrested attempting to flee Cuba. His attempted departure was alleged to be a trap with Subject's witting participation, and it resulted in the arrest of several anti-Castro individuals.

April 1961: A Cuban civil engineer in the United States said he had received a message on 11 April from Dr. Armando de CARDENAS y Aranguren (who defected to the United States in August 1961) that Subject wanted to defect but was under close surveillance and needed an excuse to leave Cuba by legal means. Dr. Cardenas was called Subject's "boy friend" in common gossip.

August 1961: Subject told an intimate friend prior to departure for a tour of the USSR, the Soviet Bloc, India, Japan, Italy, Spain and France that he knew his usefulness to the regime was over and that if he remained in Cuba he would be liquidated in the very near future. He said that he had had serious arguments with Fidel CASTRO and with Ernesto "Che" GUEVARA de la Serna over his successor as president of the FEU. Subject wanted to name his own successor and not accept their choice of the Communist Ricardo Alarcon, secretary general of the FEU when Subject was its president. Subject also said he was too involved with the actions of the Government of Cuba to become a defector like José PARDO Llaja, but hoped to remain in France at the completion of the above-mentioned tour to take post-graduate medical work in a school in France.

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CUBELA Secades,
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Unit 4

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ATTITUDE TOWARD REGIME: (Cont'd)

In January 1962 a Cuban exile said that Subject had probably decided not to defect because of fear that he would be put in an immigration detention camp (see Unit 23, Weaknesses).

April 1962: Fidel CASTRO sent one fnu CUBELA, possibly identical with Subject, to the interior to criticize local militia for their attempts to win public support. He stayed at the home of one Eugenio HERNANDEZ and publicly reprimanded the chief of the Camajuani militia. Hernández, who is an employee of the Department of Sanitation in Camajuani, has a son, a classmate of Subject, who is a counter-revolutionary. When Hernández told Subject about his son's activities, Subject did not seem concerned.

1962: The US Army reported that Subject controlled the students at the University of Havana. His loyalty to the Communist Party was uncertain. It had been said at times that he had conspired against Castro. It had also been said that he spoke against the United States to please Castro.

1962: He was reportedly involved in plotting the overthrow of Fidel Castro with other members of the military and government, specifically, Felipe GUERRA Matos, Comandante Pedro MIRET Prieto, Capitán Lester RODRIGUEZ Pérez (as of 23 July 1963 director of ferrous metallurgy, Metallurgical Branch of Consolidated Enterprises which is subordinate to the Ministry of Industry), Comandante Faustino PEREZ Hernández, Gustavo ARCOS y Bergnes (Cuban Ambassador to Belgium and leader of this group), José María de la AGUILERA y Fernández del Nogal (who was in June 1963 secretary general of the Cuban Confederation of Labor), Capitán Juan NJIRY y Sánchez and Comandante Jorge SERGUERA Riveri.

1962: During summer meetings with his friend Carlos TEPEDINO Gonzalez (now in exile in the United States) he reportedly said that he could not go back to his former wife even if he wanted to because she had been too outspoken in her dislike for the Castro regime. He also mentioned her desire to leave Cuba. This comment was based on the supposition that Subject might be working against the Castro regime in Cuba on his return to that country.

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CUBELA Secades,
(Lazaro) Rolando

Unit 4

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ATTITUDE TOWARD REGIME: (Cont'd)

1963: In Paris in late 1963 a high-ranking official of the Cuban Interior Ministry said that Angel QUEVEDO Valdivia, an official of the FEU, and Subject, a former student leader, had resigned from the rebel army after difficulties with Raúl CASTRO. The difficulties occurred after Subject and QUEVEDO had completed a senior army training course and, instead of receiving the rank of comandante which they had held during the revolution, were told by Raúl Castro that they were being demoted to capitán. Both then resigned.

CUBELA Secades,
(Lázaro) Rolando

Unit 4

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REGIME'S ATTITUDE TOWARD SUBJECT:

1959: Subject was recognized as a leader of the Revolutionary Directorate (Directorio Revolucionario - DR) group that fought in the Sierra del Escambray.

March 1959: On 25 March the Gaceta Oficial announced that Subject had been promoted from comandante in the rebel army to comandante in the revolutionary army and that he had been appointed to the post of Cuban military attaché to Spain by Fidel CASTRO. He left on or about 27 March to take up this position. It was reported that there had been some friction between the members of the DR and members of the 26th of July Movement. Members of the DR felt that Fidel Castro and the 26th of July were not giving the DR enough recognition for their work in the combat against Batista. There was also some thought that this appointment of Subject to Spain was the beginning of an attempt on the part of the Castros to separate the DR leaders. Subject had been second in command of the DR.

June 1959: An ex-DR leader was reported holding a position in the Cuban Government. On Subject's return from Spain he had been appointed to a position of Under Secretary in the Ministry of the Interior.

September 1959: Armando HART Davalos proposed to Fidel Castro that the Ministry of Education appoint a commissioner to supervise university activities. Castro said no on the grounds that it would be offensive to the students, that it would show direct government intervention, and that the university had historically been autonomous. As long as this continued the revolutionary authorities could not carry out a university reform program. A practical approach was found when the DR nominated Subject as a candidate for the presidency of the University Student Federation (Federación Estudiantil Universitaria - FEU). Castro and other revolutionary leaders saw Subject as a candidate who could be influenced and won over to the 26th of July Movement. Castro showed no open indication that he supported either Subject or the 26th of July's candidate, Pedro Luis BOITEL; however, it was said that he had made a private deal with Subject to win control over the student body. US officials commented that this deal seemed unlikely since Subject had previously told intimates he would kill Castro if he, Subject, did not get out of Cuba soon. He said that he was disgusted with the regime. Another source gave the same account but said that it was Raúl Castro rather than Fidel who approached Subject. Subject resigned from his post as Under Secretary in the Interior Ministry to become a candidate for FEU president and was elected on 17 October 1959.

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CUBELA Secades,
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Unit 5

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REGIME'S ATTITUDE TOWARD SUBJECT:

December 1959: Subject and Raúl CASTRO were reportedly surprised in the latter's home in the Camp Colombia headquarters making obvious homosexual advances toward one another. Subject later fell into disgrace with regime. It is not known whether this was due to his unsatisfactory performance as a student leader or whether he had a falling out with Raúl Castro. It was supposedly common knowledge that Subject had obtained the FEU presidency through Raúl Castro to whom he had sold out morally and politically. It was also said that he was picked for the FEU post because Fidel thought he could be controlled.

May 1960: As president of the FEU, Subject received the task (from the government) of inciting and bruiting about the fact that the powers-that-be disapproved of Aureliano SANCHEZ Arango. The latter and a thousand-odd well-wishers who had gathered at the airport to greet him on his return from Caracas were set upon by a small but well-organized pro-Communist phalanx. The government also used Subject and Angel QUEVEDO Valdivia, then secretary general of the FEU, to attack (Manuel) Antonio de VARONA y Loreda, Aureliano Sánchez Arango and (Rafael) Mario LLERENA Rodríguez for their participation in the Second Congress for Liberty and Democracy which was held in Caracas in early May. Subject and Quevedo issued a statement to the effect that Varona, Sánchez and Llerena did not represent any element in Cuba. This was a significant comment because (although it had been known that the three had tacitly opposed the revolutionary government's extremist trend) this was the first strong stand the three leaders made against the regime.

May 1960: Subject denounced the (US?) Embassy "aviso" (unidentified) as irrefutable proof of US plans to commit aggression against Cuba. All government-aligned elements in the following days pointedly expressed their support for the FEU and the "thousand-times glorious" Comandante Cubela (Subject), its president.

August 1960: Contacts among student circles in Havana stated that Subject was likely to be removed from the presidency of the FEU because he had shown reluctance to adhere to Communist orders. It was thought that he might be charged (presumably as an excuse to discharge him) with using 1,000 pesos given to the FEU for the election of Miss Universe, for personal entertainment of friends in Varadero, Cuba.

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CUBELA Secades,
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Unit 5

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REGIME'S ATTITUDE TOWARD SUBJECT:

December 1960: The government-controlled newspaper El Mundo announced that Subject had been named president of the newly established Revolutionary Vigilante Committee in the University of Havana. Similar committees were to be established throughout the country. US officials called Subject Fidel CASTRO's "sharpshooter in the University of Havana."

March 1961: Subject was reportedly arrested in an attempt to flee Cuba but this was alleged to be a trap with Subject's participation. It resulted in the arrest of several anti-Castroites.

August 1961: Subject told an intimate friend prior to departure for a tour of the USSR, Europe and other countries, that he knew his usefulness to the regime was over and that if he remained in Cuba he would be liquidated in the very near future. He reportedly said he had had serious arguments with Fidel Castro and Ernesto "Che" GUEVARA de la Serna over his successor as president of the FEU. He wanted to name his own successor and not accept their choice of Communist Ricardo ALARCON, secretary general of the FEU while Subject was president.

March 1962: Fidel Castro reportedly called in Subject and other army commanders (José María de la AGUILERA, Felipe GUERRA Matos, Juan NUIRY y Sanchez, Jorge SERGUERA Riveri and Pedro MIRET Prieto) to tell them that the Communists were trying to take over the Government of Cuba. He asked the group to back him up and they agreed. Nevertheless, the source of this report stated that these leaders were thought to be planning to assassinate Fidel and Raúl Castro and "Che" Guevara and take over the government for themselves. They thought this plan would succeed because they were in charge of regular army and militia troops. The source attributed the sabotage that was then current in Havana to the work of this group.

April 1962: Fidel Castro sent one fnu CUBELA, possibly identical with Subject, to the interior to criticize the local militia for their attempts to win public support. He stayed at the home of one Eugenio HERNANDEZ and publicly reprimanded the chief of the Camajuani militia. (See Unit 4, Attitude toward Regime.)

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CUBELA Secades,
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REGIME'S ATTITUDE TOWARD SUBJECT:

June 1962: An [redacted] reported that one Captain Waldo MARTINEZ (possibly Walso de Jesu MARTINEZ Ordoqui), a Communist, said that Subject was in charge of a tank unit composed of students in the University of Havana. This unit was located in the block between Calles 23 and 25 and J and L. (As early as January 1962 a high-level Cuban Minister in exile in the United States had reported that Subject was in charge of the University of Havana defenses to make the university a major center of resistance to any anti-government attack.

Early March 1963: A Cuban Government employee with good contacts in military services reported on 25 April 1963 that Subject had been recalled into active service from his post as a doctor in the Municipal Children's Hospital.

Late 1963: Subject reportedly resigned from the rebel army after difficulties with Raúl Castro. The difficulties occurred after Subject had completed an army training course and instead of receiving the rank of comandante which he had held during the revolution he was told by Raúl Castro that he was being demoted to captain. (See Unit 4, Attitude toward Regime.)

CUBELA Secades,
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Unit 5

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FINANCIAL STATUS:

Subject's financial status is unknown as of December 1963.

CUBELA Secades,
(Lázaro) Rolando

Unit 6

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EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND:

Subject attended grammar school in the town of Placetas, Las Villas Province, and high school in "La Progresiva" Presbyterian School in the City of Cardenas, Matanzas Province. He studied medicine at the University of Havana and graduated as a medical doctor in 1960.

Subject took a course for rebel army officers in a school located in Matanzas Province and graduated about July 1963.

In late 1963 Subject was a student at the Alliance Francaise in Paris, France, presumably taking postgraduate medical studies as he had previously stated he would like to do. He returned to Cuba in December 1963.

CUBELA Secades,
(Lazaro) Rolando

Unit 7

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MILITARY BACKGROUND:

- 1955-57: At the time of the border incident between Costa Rican and Nicaraguan troops Subject went to Costa Rica together with other members of the University Students Federation (Federación Estudiantil Universitaria - FEU) to defend Costa Rica. When he returned from Costa Rica he rejoined the fight against the Batista regime. He and others then founded the Revolutionary Directorate (Directorio Revolucionario - DR) organization. After the failure of the DR's attack against the Presidential Palace on 13 March 1957 many of the leaders sought asylum in the United States. Subject joined this group of exiles and was appointed a member of the national executive of the DR.
- 1956: Subject was involved in the assassination of Lt. Col. Antonio BLANCO Rico of Batista's Military Intelligence (SIM) (see Unit 3, Prior Political Beliefs).
- 1957-58: During December 1957-January 1958 Subject made trips to New York City to buy arms and war material for an expedition to Cuba which the DR was preparing. He participated in this expedition which left Miami on 1 February 1958 on a 55 foot yacht. The expeditionaries consisted of 16 men and one woman, headed by Faure CHOMON Mediavilla. They landed at the Bay of Nuevitas, Camagüey Province, on 8 February and then went by truck to the Escambray Mountains in Las Villas Province. Subject participated in the fighting in the Escambray until the fall of the Batista regime. At first he headed the "José Antonio Echeverría" Column of the DR and later he was appointed as military chief of the DR. When the military forces of the 26th of July Movement headed by Ernesto "Che" GUEVARA de la Serna arrived at the Escambray, Subject signed a formal military pact in the name of the DR with the 26th of July Movement. Subject headed DR troops in the capture of the city of Santa Clara, Las Villas Province, and was wounded in a combat in that city on 30 December 1958. (He was shot by a carbine bullet in the right arm.). He was then taken to the town of Placetas, Las Villas, for medical attention and subsequently returned to the front lines.
- 1958: In December the DR and the 26th of July Movement in Las Villas Province joined forces in the fight against Batista's army. The DR refused to recognize "Che" Guevara as its commander-in-chief and took military orders only from Subject.

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CUBELA Secades,
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Unit 8

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MILITARY BACKGROUND: (Cont'd)

1959: When BATISTA fled Cuba on 1 January 1959 the DR forces headed to the Presidential Palace, 1 Refugio Street, Havana, and occupied it. Subject acted as military chief and on 5 January turned the palace over to President Manuel URRUTIA Lleó after the initial discrepancies regarding the turning over of the palace had been overcome.

On 25 March 1959 Subject was promoted from comandante in the rebel army to comandante in the revolutionary army and was appointed military attaché to Spain by Fidel CASTRO. He left on or about 27 March.

On 1 July the Dominican Foreign Minister advised the US Embassy that Subject, then Under Secretary in the Cuban Interior Ministry, was engaged in activation and leadership in a Cuban effort to overthrow the Government of the Dominican Republic. He had reports on impending landings, possibly for the Third of July, with some 200 Cubans and Venezuelans, in three launches escorted by three ships of the Cuban Navy. Two launches would fly American flags and the third the Nicaraguan flag. Another anti-Trujillo source reported the same information to the Embassy three days earlier.

1960: On 6 January Subject was hospitalized in the "Borges" Pavilion of the "Calixto García" Hospital where he was operated on for the bullet wound in his right arm.

1961: In January it was reported that Subject would go to Spain in the near future using a fictitious name and with his beard shaved off. He was to be chief of the action group penetrating Spain from Cuba.

1963: A Cuban Government employee with good contacts in military services reported on 25 April that Subject had been recalled into active service from his post as a doctor in the Municipal Children's Hospital.

Continued

CUBELA Secades,
(Lázaro) Rolando

Unit 8

S-E-C-R-E-T
NO FOREIGN DISSEM

S-E-C-R-E-T
NO FOREIGN DISSEM

MILITARY BACKGROUND: (Cont'd)

In Paris in October 1963 a high-ranking official of the Cuban Interior Ministry said Angel QUEVEDO Valdivia, an FEU official, and Subject, a former student leader, had resigned from the army after difficulties with Raúl CASTRO. These difficulties occurred after they had completed a senior army training course (around July 1963) and instead of receiving the rank of comandante which they had held during the revolution they were told by Raúl Castro that they were being demoted to capitán. Both then resigned.

CUBELA Secades,
(Lázaro) Rolando

Unit 8

S-E-C-R-E-T
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S-E-C-R-E-T
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FOLLOWING WITHIN THE MILITARY:

During the anti-Batista fight in the Escambray Mountains during 1957-58 Subject was the military chief of the Revolutionary Directorate (DR). He resigned from the army in late 1963. His current following within the military, if any, is not a matter of record.

CUBELA Secades,
(Lázaro) Rolando

Unit 9

S-E-C-R-E-T
NO FOREIGN DISSEM

S-E-C-R-E-T
NO FOREIGN DISSEM

OTHER PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND:

Subject's professional background and military background are somewhat difficult to clearly separate. Most of his activities during the late 1950's and early 1960's were involved with the University Students Federation (Federación Estudiantil Universitaria - FEU) and the Revolutionary Directorate (Directorio Revolucionario - DR).

1959: Subject was second in command of DR forces in the Escambray Mountains.

In June 1959 an ex-DR leader was reported to be holding a position in the Government of Cuba. It had been reported that on Subject's return from Spain, where he was military attaché briefly, he was appointed Under Secretary in the Ministry of the Interior.

In September Subject resigned as Under Secretary to become a candidate for president of the FEU (see Unit 5, Regime's Attitude toward Subject). He was elected on 17 October 1959. A reliable source stated that his resignation from the Under Secretary's post was due in part to the fact that the DR was unhappy over his acceptance of the position. The public reason given for his resignation--that he desired to run for the presidency of the FEU--afforded a good excuse.

Shortly after his election Subject was one of the principal speakers at a mass demonstration held to protest the incursion of foreign-based aircraft over Cuba. Subject said that the university students would be organized into student brigades and would receive military instruction. The brigades would be called "Brigadas Estudiantiles Universitarias José Antonio Echeverría." Subject immediately implemented the establishment of these brigades.

In December a US resident of Cuba who received his information from a Cuban youth leader reported that the swing of the FEU to the left was confirmed by its decision at the end of November to become a full member of the Communist-run International Union of Students (IUS), although it also retained its association with the Coordinating Secretariat of the National Union of Students (COSEC), the free world's international student organization.

Continued

CUBELA Secades,
(Lázaro) Rolando

Unit 10

S-E-C-R-E-T
NO FOREIGN DISSEM

S-E-C-R-E-T
NO FOREIGN DISSEM

OTHER PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: (Cont'd)

1960: In March Subject was successful in implementing the establishment of new Disciplinary Tribunals to replace the old disciplinary councils (see Unit 2, Current Political Beliefs). In April Subject was given a vote of confidence by the executive body of the FEU and was authorized to appoint students to serve on the new tribunals. The FEU leadership in the 13 university faculties continued to voice its support for Subject and the revolutionary government of CASTRO.

In July, according to a US State Department despatch, freedom of academic expression was ended at the University of Havana when Subject's radical students and allied professors "took over" the university. The FEU directorate told the University Council it no longer had any authority on the campus and must step aside to make way for a new "Superior Governing Board." The council refused. On 14 July fighting broke out at the Law School between moderates and pistol-packing representatives of the FEU. Having Castro's regime behind them, the FEU group quickly "restored order" and took over the law school, locking classrooms and ousting professors. Subject, three other students, and four leftist professors (Hector GARCINI Guerra, Enrique JIMENEZ López, Enrique HECHAVARRIA Vaillant and Abelardo MORENO Bonilla) formed the Superior Council of the University Government. On 15 July university autonomy ended and the University of Havana became another instrument of the Castro regime.

On 16 December the government-controlled El Mundo announced that Subject had been named president of the newly established Revolutionary Vigilante Committee in the University of Havana. The US State Department called him Fidel Castro's "Sharpshooter in the University of Havana."

1961: Subject told an intimate friend prior to his departure for a tour of various European, Eastern and Soviet Bloc countries that he knew his usefulness to the regime was over and that if he remained in Cuba he would soon be liquidated. He said he had had serious arguments with Fidel Castro and Ernesto "Che" GUEVARA de la Serna over his successor as president of the FEU. He wanted to name his own successor and not accept their choice of Communist Ricardo ALARCON, then secretary general of the FEU.

Continued

CUBELA Secades,
(Lázaro) Rolando

Unit 10

S-E-C-R-E-T
NO FOREIGN DISSEM

S-E-C-R-E-T
NO FOREIGN DISSEM

OTHER PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: (Cont'd)

After serving his term as FEU president and as a member of the government board of the university the regime did not give him any other official government appointment.

1962: An [redacted] reported that one Captain Waldo MARTINEZ (possibly Walso de Jesu MARTINEZ Ordoqui), a Communist, said that Subject was in charge of a tank unit composed of students in the University of Havana. This unit was located in the block between Calles 23 and 25 and J and L. As early as January 1962 a high-level Cuban Minister in exile in the United States had reported that Subject was in charge of the Havana University defenses as a major center of resistance to any anti-government attack.

1963: In early March Subject was reportedly recalled into active service from his post as a doctor in the Municipal Children's Hospital.

CUBELA Secades,
(Lazaro) Rolando

Unit 10

S-E-C-R-E-T
NO FOREIGN DISSEM

S-E-C-R-E-T
NO FOREIGN DISSEM

FAMILY BACKGROUND:

Subject's parents are Rolando CUBELA and Virginia Secades de CUBELA; they have been divorced for some time. Subject's father is in the tailoring business. He has recently (1961 or 1962) married a girl many years his junior; Subject does not approve of this marriage. When Subject is in Havana he generally lives with his mother whose address as of February 1963 was given as Calle 38, #122, Esquina (corner of) Avenida Zoológico, Alturas de Vedado (known also as Nuevo Vedado), Havana. Subject has a sister who as of 1963 worked in the offices of the secretaryship in the Presidential Palace; her name is Caridad CUBELA Secades.

CUBELA Secades,
(Lázaro) Rolando

Unit 11

S-E-C-R-E-T
NO FOREIGN DISSEM

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NO FOREIGN DISSEM

MARITAL STATUS AND CHILDREN:

Subject married Mirtha Novoa Delgado around August 1959 and was separated or divorced from her about three months later. He reportedly felt obligated to marry her, presumably because she became pregnant prior to the marriage. They have one child, believed to be a girl, who was born in 1959 or 1960. The reason for their divorce is not known, although there were persistent rumors among Subject's friends that his wife had caught him in homosexual activities with another man. Some said it was Ernesto "Che" GUEVARA de la Serna and others said it was Raúl CASTRO Ruz (probably the latter, if the story is true).

Subject reportedly likes and admires his wife and is concerned for her welfare and happiness, although he does not love her in the husband-wife sense, according to a statement from Carlos TEPEDINO González (now in the United States in exile), a longtime friend of Subject. During summer 1962 Subject met with Tepedino in Europe and there stated that he could not go back to his wife even if he wanted to because she had been too outspoken in her dislike for the Castro regime. He also mentioned her desire to get out of Cuba. This comment was based on the supposition that Subject might be working against the Castro regime in Cuba upon his return to that country. Tepedino expressed the belief that Subject did want to return to his wife. There has also been the comment that some of Subject's "guilt" feelings come from the necessity of resolving the problem of this separation.

Editorial Note: Since he still likes and admires his wife, Subject may be more cautious in any anti-regime action while she, their child, and his mother remain in Cuba.

CUBELA Secades,
(Lázaro) Rolando

Unit 12

S-E-C-R-E-T
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NO FOREIGN DISSEM

EXTRA-MARITAL ACTIVITIES and/or ABERRATIONS:

Subject is either separated or divorced from his wife. He has many times been reported to be a homosexual, but has also apparently had various female friends.

In November 1956 Dr. Armando de CARDENAS y Aranguren, who defected to the United States in August 1961, was picked up by Batista's Military Intelligence (SIM) agents and interrogated with regard to Subject and Juan Pedro CARBO Servia (now deceased), in connection with the slaying of a SIM officer. Cardenas admitted under pressure that he was a homosexual and that Subject was his intimate friend.

In 1959 Subject and Raul CASTRO were reportedly surprised in the latter's home in the Camp Colombia headquarters while making obvious homosexual advances toward each other. There were persistent rumors later that his divorce occurred because his wife caught him in homosexual activities with another man, either Ernesto "Che" GUEVARA de la Serna or Raul Castro. In October 1960 a report stated that there were current rumors that he was probably a sexual degenerate. Two months later the statement was made that it was common knowledge that Subject had "sold out morally and politically" to Raul Castro. He had shared quarters with Castro and there was much talk of homosexual relationships. According to Subject's friend Carlos TEPELINO, if Subject does have a bent toward homosexuality, he is not solely so-inclined. According to Tepelino he presents a good appearance in a masculine way when dressed up and does quite well with women. A January 1962 report noted that Subject was reliably reported by many sources to be a pervert.

One of Subject's female friends is Loretta BERMEY, a Pan American Airlines stewardess of French descent who is based in Miami (as of 1962). While Subject was in Europe in 1962 he wanted her to come over there. He appears to have known her for some time, since his friend Tepelino reported that the stewardess had made some comment to Subject concerning the latter's political frame of mind in 1961 which made Subject (or Tepelino) think that she was working for the United States in some way.

Continued

CUBELA Secades,
(Lazaro) Rolando

Unit 13

S-E-C-R-E-T
NO FOREIGN DISSEM

S-E-C-R-E-T
NO FOREIGN DISSEM

EXTRA-MARITAL ACTIVITIES and/or ABERRATIONS:

Subject is also friendly with a Cuban dancer named Sonia CALERO Sansana. One report from Army Intelligence on 9 June 1961 called her Sonia Calero de CUBELA, which would make her appear to be Subject's wife, but this is presumed to be erroneous. This report added that she was a Cuban Intelligence agent working in Havana. (Another report identified her as the sister of a known G-2 agent, Oscar CALERO, who worked at one time in this job out of Montevideo, Uruguay.) The report further stated that she was the mistress of Ismani CIENFUEGOS, then Cuban Minister of the Interior. Two addresses for her were given in 1962: 1) Mazo 256, Ayestaran, Havana, and 2) Calle 30, Esquina (corner of) Avenida 27. She is a dancer who made a trip to the USSR with an artistic group in 1961 and another trip to Prague in June 1962. Another report stated that she was in the USSR in 1960 and again in August 1962. (Thus, she may have been in Prague in the summer of 1962 when Subject was there.) She is a mulatto with brown eyes, black hair (dyed red as of 1963), age 27, five feet six inches, and weighing 130 pounds. She is called the choreographer of the Club Parisienne of the Hotel Nacional in Havana and is also a self-admitted Communist. She is a miliciana and performs guard duty at the CMQ offices and also does volunteer work. Subject is known to have phoned her from Paris to tell her when he was returning to Havana in mid-summer 1962. She is also known to be one of Fidel CASTRO's mistresses.

CUBELA Secades,
(Lázaro) Rolando

Unit 13

S-E-C-R-E-T
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S-E-C-R-E-T
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PERSONAL HABITS:

(e. g., drink, food, narcotics, etc.)

Subject reportedly likes drinking, loves jokes, and is social, amiable and friendly. During a visit to Mexico in 1961 he reportedly drank heavily. He is reported by many sources to be a homosexual but is also said to like women (see Unit 13, Extra-Marital Activities and/or Aberrations and Unit 23, Weaknesses).

CUBELA Secades,
(Lázaro) Rolando

Unit 14

S-E-C-R-E-T
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NO FOREIGN DISSEM

SPORTS, HOBBIES, SPECIAL SKILLS:

Subject is a medical doctor.

Subject belonged to the shell-boat crew of the Vedado Tennis Club, city of Havana, and distinguished himself in this sport. In 1959 or 1960 he acted as coach for the Havana University crew.

CUBELA Secades,
(Lázaro) Rolando

Unit 15

S-E-C-R-E-T
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NO FOREIGN DISSEM

CONTACTS IN CUBA:

SOME of Subject's contacts inside Cuba:

de la ACUILERA Chelala, José María: A comandante, called in with Subject, Felipe GUERRA Matos, Juan NUIRY y Sánchez, Jorge SERGUERA Riveri, and Pedro MIRET Prieto on 15 March 1962 by Fidel CASTRO and asked to support him against the Communists allegedly trying to take over the Government of Cuba.

ALARCON, Ricardo: Vice president of the FEU when Subject was its president.

ALVAREZ Díaz, José

ASEF(P) Yara, José: Reportedly traveled to the USSR, the Soviet Bloc, India, Japan, Italy, Spain and France with Subject in 1961.

AMELJEIRAS Delgado, Efigenio: One of the witnesses at Subject's wedding.

ARTIME, Marcelo: Boyhood friend well trusted by Subject.

BLANCA, Luis: In the USA in 1959; returned to Cuba.

BOITTEL, Pedro Luis: Candidate against Subject in the 26th of July Movement's bid for presidency of the FEU. Boittel was chosen by the 26th of July students at the University.

BOTI Leon, Regino

CANTO, Enrique: Chargé d'Affaires in Madrid when Subject was named military attaché to Spain, 1959.

CHOMON (aka Chaimont) y Mediavilla, Faure: One of the witnesses at Subject's wedding in 1959. Now (1963) Cuban Ambassador to Moscow.

CASTRO Ruz, Fidel:

CASTRO Ruz, Raúl: At Subject's wedding in 1959 as a witness.

CASTELLS Váldes, Antonio: Now (1963) reportedly important official in G-2 Security Department.

Continued

CUBELA Secades,
(Lázaro) Rolando

Unit 16

S-E-C-R-E-T
NO FOREIGN DISSEM

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CONTACTS IN CUBA: (Cont'd)

DIAZ-ARGUELLES y García, Raúl Jaime: One of the DR leaders with Subject in the Escambray.

DIAZ Aztarain, Rolando: Now Chief of the Cuban Navy (1963).

DORTICOS Torrado, Osvaldo: President of Cuba (1963).

ESCALANTE Dellunde, Cesar: Traveled to Brazil with Subject in 1960.

ESCALONA Martínez, Sergio: Traveled with Subject to Brazil and Mexico in 1960.

FERNANDEZ y Cossio, José: In the Sierra del Escambray fighting with Subject; member of the DR.

FIGUEROA, Luis: Professor at the University of Havana in 1960.

GARCIA Riestra, Guillermo: Also accused with Subject of helping to assassinate Lt. Col. Antonio BLANCO Río of Batista's SIM, Department of Military Intelligence. Accusation not necessarily true.

GUERRA Matos, Felipe: See de la Aguilera, above.

GUTIERREZ Menoyo, Eloy Cubela: Was reported to be in contact with him in May 1962.

GARCINI Guerra, Hector: One of the 4 leftist professors on the Superior Governing Board of the University of Havana when the 4 students (Subject, Quevedo, Venegas and Alarcon) took control.

HART Davalos, Armando: Minister of Education in Cuba since 1959.

HECHAVARRIS Vaillant, Enrique: See Garcini above.

INCLAN y Costa, Dr. Clemente: "Rector Magnifico" - a title rarely given. Rector of the University of Havana when Subject became FEU President in 1959.

JIMENEZ López, Enrique: See Garcini, above.

Continued

CUBELA Secades,
(Lázaro) Rolando

Unit 16

S-E-C-R-E-T
NO FOREIGN DISSEM

S-E-C-R-E-T
NO FOREIGN DISSEM

CONTACTS IN CUBA: (Cont'd)

MACHIN DeVeche, Gustavo "Tavo": One of the witnesses at Subject's wedding. In the DR with Subject in the Escambray. Appears to be Communist, since reliable source has reported arguing with Machin against Communism. Machin's father, a doctor is definitely anti-Communist.

MARINELLO Vidsurreta, Juan: Veteran Communist. Became Rector of the University of Havana in 1962. Previously long-time leader of the Popular Socialist Party, the Communist Party of Cuba.

MARRERO y Artiles, Levi: Traveled with Subject to Montevideo, Uruguay, in 1960. Subject was then Chief of the Department of International Relations in the Ministry of Foreign Relations.

MIRET Prieto, Pedro

MORENO Bonilla, Abelardo: See Garcini, Jiménez, and Hechavarria, above.

NUIRY y Sánchez, Juan: Recalled to active service and appointed Chief of the Mayari Command in Oriente Province. Attended Communist indoctrination School in January 1962.

NARANJO y Morales, José Alberto: One of the witnesses at Subject's wedding.

PORTELA, Dr. Alfredo: One of the witnesses at Subject's wedding.

PUENTE Blanco, José: Subject replaced Puente as president of the FEU in 1959.

PUENTE, Jorge (Panamanian): Doing Communist training for CASTRO in Venezuela.

QUEVEDO Valdivia, Angel: Secretary general of the FEU leadership when Subject was president of the FEU.

RAMOS, Francisco: Traveled to Brazil with Subject in 1960. Not known whether this is the Francisco Ramos, a commercial counselor, who was in the Dominican Republic in 1961. If so, name may be Francisco Ramos Rojas. There is also a Major Ramos Peguero, fnu.

Continued

CUBELA Secades,
(Lázaro) Rolando

Unit 16

S-E-C-R-E-T
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S-E-C-R-E-T
NO FOREIGN DISSEM

CONTACTS IN CUBA: (Cont'd)

REBELLON (aka REVELLON) Alonso, José: Student leader, 1960.
Juventud Comunista.

RODRIGUEZ Rodríguez, Carlos Rafael: One of Subject's pet "dislikes";
solid Communist.

RODRIGUEZ, Fructuoso: Widow of this man was with Subject in Madrid
on 2 April 1959 during press conference at the Cuban Embassy
after Subject arrived to become military attaché. Relation, if
any, to Cuban Embassy or to Subject unknown.

SANCHEZ Bernal, Fernando: Subject is called a former friend of
Sanchez.

SANCHEZ Perales, Dr. Isidro: A witness at Subject's wedding.

SANTIAGO García, Antonio: Served in US Army during World War II.
DR column leader in Escambray.

SERGUERA Riveri, Jorge: See de la Aguilera, first page.

SOTO Figueredo, Luis: Deputy secretary in the FEU when Subject was
President.

VASQUEZ Blanco, Juan: Cuban Consul, NYC, and reported G-2 whom
Subject contacted after a trip to Europe in August 1960.

VENEGAS Valdespino, José: Vice president of the FEU when Subject
was its president.

Other Cubans probably known to Subject - they all attended the
Communist-sponsored Latin American Peace Conference in Mexico City
5-8 March 1961:

ENIRALGO y Vallina, Prof. Elias Jose

GUILLEN Batista, Nicolas: Cuban Communist poet.

SANTAMARIA, Haydee: This is the wife of Armando Hart Dávalos,
Cuban Minister of Education under Castro.

Continued

CUBELA Secades,
(Lázaro) Rolando

Unit 16

S-E-C-R-E-T
NO FOREIGN DISSEM

S-E-C-R-E-T
NO FOREIGN DISSEM

CONTACTS IN CUBA: (Cont'd)

SOTO, Jesus

(EDFLEGIA?), Jorge (Dr.)

DE LA TORRE y Calejas, Salvador Luis: Professor, writer, natural sciences, etc., and at this date president of Las Villas University.

RAVELO, Fernando

ARAGONES y Navarro, Emilio

RODRIGUEZ Rodríguez, Carlos Rafael

CASTELLO, Humberto

CASTELLANOS García, Baudillo

GONZALEZ, Augusto

CANCINI, Dr.

ALVAREZ Rios, Baldermo

FRANQUI, Carlos

KU-CHI-LAN, Mario: Chinese-Cuban Communist and photographer; reported to be working for the United States; also reported to be working for CASTRO; latter more likely. Name frequently spelled Kuchilan.

PEREZ Rodríguez, Joaquín: In May 1960, Joaquín Pérez Rodríguez, who was vice-president of the Association of Agricultural Students of the University of Havana was attacked by Comandante Ramón GUIN for having published a manifesto against Subject. Guin had been in the DR and was probably given the mission of defending Subject at this meeting. Pérez was very popular, however, and his friends succeeded in preventing his expulsion from the University. He was severely beaten by FEU forces under Subject's presidency.

Continued

CUBELA Secades,
(Lázaro) Rolando

Unit 16

S-E-C-R-E-T
NO FOREIGN DISSEM

S-E-C-R-E-T
NO FOREIGN DISSEM

CONTACTS IN CUBA: (Cont'd)

GUIN, Ramón: See above; in the DR during the fighting against Batista.

MURGIONDO, Jose Luis: Cuban agent at the Cuban Embassy in Montevideo in June 1960. Subject met Murgiondo while he, Subject, was on a goodwill mission there. Murgiondo's current whereabouts are not a matter of record.

CUBELA Secades,
(Lázaro) Rolando

Unit 16

S-E-C-R-E-T
NO FOREIGN DISSEM

S-E-C-R-E-T
NO FOREIGN DISSEM

CONTACTS OUTSIDE CUBA:

Dominican Republic:

ERICKSON, Tomás Parmenio: Contact with Subject in September 1961 (Erickson is possibly a Cuban).

RAMOS Rojas, Francisco: Ramos is possibly a Cuban (see Unit 16, Contacts in Cuba).

Mexico: February 1961

de LEON García, Maximo: Former member of the Communist Party of Mexico, a Nuevo Leon University student who, with the others listed below, traveled to Mexico City to see Subject during latter's trip there.

CADENA Cadena, José Angel: Member of the PCM - Communist Party of Mexico at Nuevo Leon University.

GONZALEZ Nuñez, Pedro: Nuevo Leon University Student, Mexico.

GARZA, Jesus Mario: President of the Alumni Association of Preparatory School #1, University of Nuevo Leon, Mexico.

RAMOS Quintanilla, Oscar, Nuevo Leon School of Medicine, Mexico.

Uruguay:

In May 1960, on a trip (possibly accompanying, possibly on a good will mission along) with President DORTICOS and the Cuban Ambassador to Montevideo (Mario GARCIA Inchaustegui), Subject met a group of student leaders who, in the name of the Movimiento Latinoamericano-26, had repudiated President EISENHOWER's March 1960 visit to Uruguay; some of the individuals listed below were members of the Federation of Uruguayan University Students (FEUU), and may or may not have been involved in the repudiation of Eisenhower, but all appear to be pro-Communist or Communist:

ERPANDONEA Fernández, Alfredo Mario: FEUU leader - active Communist.

GONZALEZ, Raquel: FEUU leader, and Communist leader among the university students.

Continued

CUBELA Secades,
(Lázaro) Rolando

Unit 17

S-E-C-R-E-T
NO FOREIGN DISSEM

S-E-C-R-E-T
NO FOREIGN DISSEM

CONTACTS OUTSIDE CUBA: (Cont'd)

BLANCO, José: Active Communist leader.

KOVLENKO, Mihail: Communist with an active interest in the FEU, although not a student.

MARTINEZ, Igor: Communist student in the University Law School; recently (1960) visited Cuba.

PASTORINO Raúl: Pro-Communist interested in student and labor matters.

Editorial Note: Subject arrived in Montevideo from a goodwill mission in Chile, and may have been on the same goodwill mission to meet students and labor leaders in Uruguay, or may have arrived with Dorticos' group. There are conflicting reports on his arrival, but he was there at this meeting, it is believed.

In early June 1960, Subject attended a meeting in Montevideo at which Blanco (see above), Javier LAROCDA (a frequent traveler to Moscow), and a Cuban José Luis MURGIONDE (agent of the Cuban Embassy in Montevideo) were present. Subject and Levi MARRERO y Artiles, chief of the Department of International Organizations in the Ministry of Foreign Relations of Cuba, issued invitations for the Latin American Youth Congress and initiated a campaign to invite students to participate in the military course organized for Latin American students. Subject said that Soviet and Chinese instructors would teach guerrilla warfare methods.

Brazil:

GJANAIS, Oliveiros: President of the Union of Brazilian students. Traveled with Subject on trip thru Brazil in December 1960.

Chile:

Chilean Students who supposedly signed a joint declaration with Cuban students in July 1960.

CAVADA, Octavio: Chilean Cristian Democratic leader.

FERNANDEZ, Patricio: President of the Federation of Chilean Students.

Continued

CUBELA Secades,
(Lázaro) Rolando

Unit 17

S-E-C-R-E-T
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S-E-C-R-E-T
NO FOREIGN DISSEM

CONTACTS OUTSIDE CUBA: (Cont'd)

MUNITA, Fernando: Catholic University of Santiago, Chile. (On 5 July 1960, El Diario Ilustrado, Chilean daily stated that Munita and Alejandro FOXLEY denied signing this manifesto.)

UPSIC, Daslav (?): President of the Technical University of Santiago student organization.

PAVEZ, Horacio: President of the Technical University of Valparaíso student organization.

SANHUEZA, Bernardino: President of Catholic University student organization.

MARTINEZ, Osvaldo: University of Valparaíso.

Nicaragua:

OBREGON Aguirre, Genaro: Nicaraguan pro-Communist who planned to see Subject in April 1960 while on a trip to Havana. Obregon reportedly was to ask Subject for aid for Nicaraguan student revolutionary activities.

SALINAS, Maximo: Visited Cuba, and returned to Nicaragua with gifts from Subject to one Joaquín SOLIS, leader of a Nicaraguan student movement who receives money and orders from Communist leaders in other countries. May-June 1961.

SOLIS, Joaquín: See note on Salinas, just above.

Ecuador, Bolivia, Venezuela (representatives from these countries at a Student's Congress, sponsored by COSEC, and held in Klosters, Switzerland in 1960).

Ecuador:

ORDONEZ Pulley, David

Bolivia:

ZAMORA, Oscar: Leader of the Red Bloc in Bolivia. Attended the IUS Congress in Peking in 1959. Member of the Partido Obrero Boliviano. Elected by the Bolivian University Students to attend COSEC congress.

Continued

CUBELA Secades,
(Lázaro) Rolando

Unit 17

S-E-C-R-E-T
NO FOREIGN DISSEM

S-E-C-R-E-T
NO FOREIGN DISSEM

CONTACTS OUTSIDE CUBA:

Venezuela:

ALVAREZ Ibarra, Pedro Francisco: IUS (Communist-sponsored sector of the World Federation of Democratic Youth, which is also Communist) leader in Venezuela who attended this COSEC meeting.

United States:

CARDENAS y Aranguren, Armando de: Cuban pathologist in the United States; reportedly Subject's "boy friend."

CUBELA Secades,
(Lázaro) Rolando

Unit 17

S-E-C-R-E-T
NO FOREIGN DISSEM

S-E-C-R-E-T
NO FOREIGN DISSEM

TRAVEL:

- 1957: After the failure of the Revolutionary Directorate (DR) attack against the Presidential Palace on 13 March many leaders of the DR sought asylum in the United States, including Subject. He made various trips from Miami to New York City to buy arms and war material for an expedition to Cuba being prepared by the DR. In New York he lived at the home of Isidro HERNANDEZ, a professor at the Medical School of the University of Havana.
- 1959: In March Subject went to Spain as military attaché; he remained in this post only about two months.
- 1960: According to a January report Subject had recently returned from visiting Communist China.
- 1960: Subject was in Montevideo, Uruguay, temporarily on a goodwill mission and was active among pro-Communist student and labor groups while there. There are conflicting reports on his arrival date so he may or may not have been a member of the group surrounding Cuban President Osvaldo DORTICOS Torrado when he visited Uruguay on 30 May. Another report indicated that Subject did not arrive in Uruguay until 3 June, coming in unexpectedly from Chile, as a guest of the pro-Communist Federation of Uruguayan Students (FEUU). He stayed four days, held a press conference at FEUU headquarters, spoke at the University of Montevideo, and privately met leaders of the FEUU and the Communist-dominated Uruguayan labor confederation. There was no advance publicity about his arrival; even the FEUU appeared surprised. One of his probable topics of discussion with labor and student leaders was the forthcoming Latin American Youth Congress scheduled for Havana in July 1960.
- 1960: Subject was to leave on 14 August to take part in the Ninth International Students' Conference in Switzerland. Upon his return from this conference he spent several days in New York City where he was in contact with José VASQUEZ Blanco, consular attaché and reported Cuban G-2 agent. He was apparently with the Cuban delegation to the United Nations for at least part of his stay in the United States.

Continued

CUBELA Secades,
(Lázaro) Rolando

Unit 18

S-E-C-R-E-T
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S-E-C-R-E-T
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TRAVEL: (Cont'd)

- 1960: With Sergio ESCALONA Martínez, head of the newly formed Cuban Institute for Friendship with Peoples, Subject left for Brazil to represent Fidel CASTRO at graduation exercises for law students from the University of Goiania and possibly also at São Paulo University. After five days in Brazil they were to go to Mexico City. They traveled on diplomatic passports. Subject was scheduled to attend ceremonies in Mexico at the University of Mexico but missed his plane connections from Brazil and instead on 23 December represented Castro as sponsor of the graduation class of the National Agricultural School at Chapingo and conferred with faculty members of the Science and Politics Department at that school.
- 1960: Subject transited Panama en route from Curaçao to Mexico on 22 December. He had been in Curaçao en route from Port of Spain.
- 1961: Subject was one of the 23 Cuban delegates to the Latin American Conference on National Sovereignty, Economic Independence and Peace, held in Mexico City.
- 1961: In August he left on a tour of the USSR, Soviet Bloc countries, India, Japan, Italy, Spain and France. He was invited as a guest of student organs in these countries. He was to attend a cultural festival in Paris and proceed to the Bloc countries. On 24 August he spoke at a press conference in Prague. On 27 August he spoke at the headquarters of the International Union of Students on the liquidation of illiteracy and on the social status of students in Cuba. On 24 September he and an unidentified delegate of the FEU traveled to China. Subject returned from his trip in October 1961, according to the Cuban newspaper Hoy.
- 1962: In August Subject was reportedly a "special delegate" to the Helsinki World Youth Festival by Fidel Castro's permission. The story which Subject told Castro was that he was fatigued and ill and needed a rest. Thus he got a chance to travel and to meet his friend Carlos TEPEDINO, who is now in exile in the United States. Subject stayed at the Franklin Hotel in Paris with Tepedino and then moved to the Casa Cuba. He planned to

Continued

CUBELA Secades,
(Lázaro) Rolando

Unit 18

S-E-C-R-E-T
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TRAVEL:

spend about one week in France, including a trip to the Riviera, and then go to Prague. Subject's wife allegedly told friends he did not intend to return from Helsinki; however, he did return.

1963 As of late 1963 Subject was studying at the Alliance Francaise in Paris, France. He returned to Cuba in December.

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CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS;

In 1955 Subject, along with José Antonio ECHEVERRIA Bianchi, Fructuoso RODRIGUEZ, Juan Pedro CARBO Servia, Eduardo GARCIA Lavandero and Faure CHOMON y Mediavilla, founded the Revolutionary Directorate (Directorio Revolucionario - DR). In 1958 he headed the "José Antonio Echeverría" column of the DR in the Escambray Mountains and later he was appointed military chief of the DR. In 1959 he was recognized as one of the DR's top leaders.

On 17 October 1959, Subject was elected president of the University Students Federation (Federación Estudiantil Universitaria - FEU). He served for something under a year as FEU president. The FEU was affiliated with both the International Union of Students, part of the Communist-controlled World Federation of Democratic Youth, and with the Coordinating Secretariat of the National Union of Students (COSEC), the free-world international students' organization. He has attended various meetings of both of these international groups, particularly of the former.

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Unit 19

S-E-C-R-E-T
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SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

(Prejudices, disabilities, racial considerations, etc.)

In September 1959 Subject reportedly told intimates that he was so disgusted with the CASTRO regime that if he, Subject, did not get out of Cuba soon he would kill Castro himself.

In February 1961 there was an unconfirmed report that Subject had made overtures to various Embassies for asylum. In August he said he knew his usefulness to the regime was over and if he remained in Cuba he would soon be liquidated. He said he was too involved with the actions of the Government of Cuba to become a defector but hoped to remain in France at the completion of his tour of the Soviet Bloc and other countries to take postgraduate medical work. In February 1962 it was reported that even though he had been forced to resign as president of the University Students Federation (FEU) in favor of a Communist he seemed to have retained his position as a student leader and carried more weight by far than his successor, Ricardo ALARCON. He was consulted not only by student leaders but by university students and government officials.

In March 1962 he and other army commanders were called in by Fidel Castro for support against a Communist takeover of the government. They agreed to back Castro but according to source they were really thought to be planning to assassinate Castro and his brother, Raul, and Ernesto "Che" GUEVARA de la Serna and take over the government themselves. (See Unit 4, Attitude toward the Regime.)

Later in 1962 Subject reportedly told his friend Carlos TEPEDINO, now an exile in the United States, that he could not return to his wife if he wanted to because of her outspokenness against the regime and her desire to leave Cuba. This was based on the supposition that he might be working against the Castro regime in Cuba upon his return.

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(Lázaro) Rolando

Unit 20

S-E-C-R-E-T
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MOTIVATION:

Subject is obviously a contradictory and controversial figure. He is a romantic idealist, but as a practical politician he is naive. He appears to require a psychological impetus, preferably in the form of a strong and trusted person who can keep him sufficiently psychologically motivated. At present, he appears determined to carry out his plans. He takes pride in his reputation for bravery, but is personally sensitive regarding the acts which have built up that reputation, e.g., his sensitivity to the use of the word assassin in numerous references to him made by Cubans and others.

An evaluation of Subject should be based on his personality, his reputation as a malerindo (a brash, spoiled, outspoken person), and his aversion to bow to the will of higher authorities, including the CASTROS and Ernesto "Che" GUEVARA. Under the surface, however, he appears to be a sensitive man showing many indications of honesty, patriotism, decency, and unselfishness. One minor example is the incident of his engagement to his present wife, which was announced in 1959. He felt obligated to marry her, and did so in August of that year, possibly because she became pregnant. Although separated from her for some time, he has more than once expressed his liking and admiration for her, and his concern for her welfare and happiness. She is outspokenly anti-regime and wants to leave Cuba. Although it may seem normal that he marry her under the circumstances, there are many Cubans who would not have done so.

While Subject is mercurial in temperament, it has been proven that anything he undertakes he performs with vigor and dedication, and usually accomplishes his mission. An example of this fact is his participation in the assassination in 1956 of Lieutenant Colonel Antonio BLANCO Rico, of Batista's Military Intelligence (SIM). He defended that act at a press conference in Madrid (where he had been sent as Castro's military attaché) on 2 April 1959 by describing Batista as a dictator, assassin, and despoiler of the riches of Cuba who had left the revolutionary government the legacy of a Cuban national debt of one billion dollars.

There is no indication that Subject has demanded anything material for himself, either from the Castro regime or from the US Government, with the possible exception of technical assistance from the latter. Nor did he demand a high position when Castro took over, even though his fighting, leadership and courage in the Escambray contributed to the revolutionary victory and entitled him to some

Continued

CUBELA Secades,
(Lazaro) Rolando

Unit 21

S-E-C-R-E-T
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S-E-C-R-E-T
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MOTIVATION:

major consideration. Rather, Subject's qualities of modesty, naïvete and honesty and his assets as a soldier were used by Fidel CASTRO and "Che" GUEVARA as tools to persuade him to run for the presidency of the FEU in order to win control over the anti-revolutionary, apolitical and Roman Catholic groups predominant at the University of Havana. (Subject's own study of medicine at that institution had made him well aware of the conditions existing there and he keenly felt the need for revolutionary reforms.)

It is, of course, difficult to reconcile the brutality of some of Subject's actions as FEU president, particularly since he indicated his dissatisfaction with the Castro regime within three months of its implementation. He treated the entire student and faculty body as enemies of the revolution, and it seemed apparent that he was, after all, simply utilized as a Castro tool.

With regard to his political naïvete, it appears that Subject, like many others, believed what he heard in the inner circles, in which he was an important Directorio Revolucionario (DR) leader. He fought in the Escambray as he had fought for José FIGUERES Ferrer, President of Costa Rica when that country was invaded in 1955. An idealist, he thought certain individuals were actually revolutionary leaders who aimed to help the poor. Subject was disillusioned much sooner than some, to the extent that, some three months after the Castros assumed power, he told an intimate friend that he was so disgusted with Castro that if he (Subject) did not get out of the country soon, he would kill Castro. Castro, however, knowing that the leaders of the DR were in essence either Communist or pro-Communist, had already decided to separate them, and he began by sending Subject to Madrid as Cuban military attaché. The reasons behind Subject's acceptance of the post are unclear, unless he simply wished to leave Cuba in order to avoid killing Castro. In any case, he told a good friend that he only planned to stay in Spain about a month and then return to complete his medical studies in Havana. As the report indicated, Subject's plan to return was inconsistent with his reported dissatisfaction with Castro. The newspaper Diario El Nacional reported that Subject's departure was due to health, rather than political reasons. (However, it may be that Subject was flattered by the appointment, a good one for a man of his age.) Subject returned shortly, nevertheless, and was appointed Deputy Secretary of the Interior, remaining in that post until he resigned to present his candidacy for the presidency of the FEU. The election took place on 17 October 1959.

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Unit 21

S-E-C-R-E-T
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STRENGTHS:

Subject takes personal pride in his reputation for bravery. He has a reputation for being a malcriado (brash, spoiled, outspoken) and for not bowing to the will of higher authorities. Under this crust, however, he is a sensitive man showing many indications of honesty, patriotism and decency.

He may at this time be anti-Communist and anti-Castro but it is difficult to draw any conclusion from the conflicting material available concerning his views.

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(Lazaro) Rolando

Unit 22

S-E-C-R-E-T
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WEAKNESSES:

Subject is personally sensitive with regard to the acts which have built up his reputation. He is particularly sensitive to the use of the word assassin in numerous references to him by Cubans and others.

Subject has often been reported to be a pervert, a sexual degenerate, and a homosexual. Specific instances of alleged homosexual activities are recorded in Unit 13, Extra-Marital Activities and/or Aberrations.

In 1959 a Guatemalan youth leader who spoke to Subject at some length after the latter's return from Communist China reportedly said that Subject was not too intelligent and was primarily a soldier in attitude and outlook.

In November 1960 an unidentified source called Subject one of many "small time" student leaders who made their living by extortion and blackmail. The principal victims were homosexuals who were prominent in social, professional and business positions. This report called him an individual without principles or scruples, greedy, ambitious, and one who would betray the regime without qualms should it suit his own interests. Among his victims allegedly were Miguel Angel QUEVEDO y Lastra, former editor of the weekly magazine Bohemia (now in exile in Venezuela and formerly working for the United States editing Bohemia Libre) and one Dr. CARDENAS, chief surgeon of the university hospital. However, Quevedo is and was openly known to be a homosexual and Dr. Cardenas appears to be Dr. Armando de Cardenas Aranguren, a pathologist who admitted homosexual relations with Subject during an interrogation by Batista's military intelligence after the killing of Lt. Col. Antonio ELANCO Rico. There is no doubt, however, that Cardenas still considered himself a friend to Subject and as late as 1961 was trying to help get Subject out of Cuba; this does not seem to be a likely action for someone who had been blackmailed for years by Subject.

According to one source Subject contemplated suicide in 1961. He was said to completely distrust security in any Miami contact with Cubans and the Cuban community.

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Unit 23

S-E-C-R-E-T
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WEAKNESSES: (cont'd)

While in Mexico in 1961 Subject reportedly was drinking heavily. The reasons for dismissing him as president of the FEU in 1960 were reportedly drink and women.

In January 1962 an eminent physician who arrived from Cuba as an exile told a US agency that Subject had probably changed his mind about defecting because he was afraid that he would be incarcerated in an immigration detention camp.

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Unit 23

S-E-C-R-E-T
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FIELD ESTIMATE:

The user should use this space for overall comments or estimates having first perused the various Units as received from Headquarters and added pertinent comment or special knowledge under the appropriate Unit.

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Unit 24

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OPERATIONAL LEADS:

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Unit 25

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